

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6845

BILL NUMBER: SB 312

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 28, 2008

BILL AMENDED: Jan 28, 2008

SUBJECT: County Executives.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Boots

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill requires a county (other than Marion County) to place a public question on the ballot at the 2010 general election concerning whether the county should have:

- (1) a one-person county executive; and
- (2) a nine-member county council consisting of four members elected from districts and five members elected at-large to serve as the county legislative body as well as the county fiscal body.

It provides that if the county voters vote in favor of the public question:

- (1) the initial county chief executive officer; and
- (2) any county council members required to be elected to satisfy the requirements of the statute; are elected at the November 2012 general election.

The bill also provides that if the public question is disapproved at the 2010 general election, the public question may be placed on the ballot at a future general election if a petition signed by at least 5% of the voters of the county is filed with the circuit court clerk.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *County Commissioners:* The effect of the bill will depend

on the voters adopting the public question and the decisions of the county fiscal body. If the public question is adopted, no current county executive or legislative responsibility is reduced or eliminated. The duties are reassigned from a three-member board of county commissioners to a single, elected chief executive, which could reduce compensation costs. However, officer compensation is determined by the county fiscal body, and any cost savings will result from the decisions of the fiscal body. Officers are compensated from the county general fund.

(Revised) *County Council Members:* The bill could increase county costs by adding two at-large county council members to county councils where a public question is approved by voters. The costs will vary by county as the compensation of county council members and their staff is determined in the budget process of the county.

Background and Additional Details -

In all counties, the board of county commissioners is the executive of the county. It makes various appointments, such as appointing a county resident and a representative of a financial institution to the county land valuation commission and appointing the local alcohol and tobacco commission. The board also performs duties and exercises powers concerning the issuance and payment of bonds of the county and the expenditure of the unexpended proceeds of those bonds. Other statutory and constitutional duties include operating charity farms or county homes in counties with a population greater than 235,000.

The county council is both the legislative and fiscal body of the county. In all counties, except Lake, Marion, and St. Joseph County, the county council is a seven-member body. Lake and St. Joseph Counties have 9 members and Marion County has 29 members.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources:

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